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Wisconsin's Historical Collections

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that splendid institution, for in its field of usefulness its example was only equalled by Iowa valor on bloody fields. But Mr. Price writes with a free and ready pen of all those things, and his readers will conclude that, for a man who will be eighty years of age January 10, 1894, he wields a very ready pen.

Since writing the above we learn from Hon. Hoyt Sherman, of Des Moines, that the bills of the State Bank were issued in denominations of \$1, \$2, \$3, \$5 and \$10. The prettiest one of the lot was the \$3 bill—a denomination not at all usual in bank currency. The necessity for issuing so many small bills arose from the scarcity of silver money. At the outset Mr. Sherman was charged with the duty of devising the engravings for the steel plates, which were made by Messrs. Toppan, Carpenter & Co., engravers, of New York City. It was the work of several days, in which he had the aid of Mr. Toppan, the senior member of the firm, a gentleman who was an artist in his profession. Mr. Sherman was cashier of the Des Moines branch, which duties he discharged until he entered the military service. We regret, as no doubt the reader will also, that a set of these beautiful bills—always worth 100 cents on the dollar—were not saved from the hot fire in which they were consumed at Iowa City.

WISCONSIN'S HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS.

We take great pleasure in presenting in this number of *THE ANNALS* a most interesting article from the pen of Mr. R. G. Thwaites, on the origin and progress of the Historical Collections of the State of Wisconsin. Mr. Thwaites is the Secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society, the successor of Dr. Lyman C. Draper, who laid the foundations of that great work. Mr. Thwaites is a man of wide and thorough culture and one of the foremost of Western historical writers. The showing which he makes—though very modestly put forth—is a proud one for the State of Wisconsin. It dwarfs not only that of every other Western State, but in many directions

all of them put together. The reader will, however, kindly bear in mind that these magnificent results are the culmination of fifty years of well-directed effort. Work in this direction by most of the surrounding States is of but comparatively recent origin. It not only requires time to develop such magnificent collections, but the moral and material support of a great State. One man, as a historical collector, may even rival such a progressive State as Wisconsin—as in the case of the illustrious Hubert Howe Bancroft of California—but to accomplish this he must possess both immense wealth and the disposition to use it. Ordinarily, this work moves but slowly, for the reason that it depends upon the efforts of specialists who do not have command of the means necessary to accomplish such magnificent ends. What Mr. Thwaites writes will repay the thoughtful attention of our readers.

THE DEATH OF JESSICA BOIES.

This sad event occurred at the home of Gov. Horace Boies, in Waterloo, on the first day of the New Year. The funeral, which was the largest that ever occurred in that city was attended from the family residence on Thursday, the 4th inst. There were present many distinguished persons from abroad—among whom were Hon. C. G. McCarthy, Auditor of State, Gen. Byron A. Beeson, State Treasurer, and Adjutant General George Greene; Hon. Peter A. Dey, of Iowa City; Hon. John F. Duncombe, of Fort Dodge; Judge Lenehan, Hon. M. M. Ham and J. J. Dunn, of Dubuque; Col. and Mrs. Charles A. Clarke, and Hon. N. M. Hubbard, of Cedar Rapids; President Schaffer, of the State University; Cato Sells, of Vinton; members of the Governor's official staff, and others. The business places were closed and the people of Waterloo gave every manifestation of their high respect for the deceased and their deep sympathy with Governor Boies.

Miss Boies was born in Erie county, New York, nearly 29 years ago, and removed with her family to Waterloo in 1866. She was educated in the public schools of that city, at Cornell

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